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| **Introduction: ANZAC Project**  ANZAC Day occurs on 25 April every year.  On this day we honour all the men and women who have participated in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations around the world, including the ANZACs *(Australian and New Zealand Army Corps)* who fought at Gallipoli in Turkey during World War I.  Incredibly, 100 years have passed since Australia’s involvement in the First World War. | **ANZAC Centenary**  The ANZAC Centenary commemorates Australia’s involvement in World War I and remembers anyone who has served in a war or conflict as well as those men and women still serving in the Defence Forces today.  It was on 1 November 1914 that the first convoy of Australian and New Zealand ships left Albany in Western Australia to transport the ANZACs to the battlefields of World War I. When most people think of the ANZACs, they think about the infamous landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. The 100th anniversary of this moment will be commemorated with an ANZAC Day long weekend in Australia and many other events around the world.  In Australia, the five years of the Centenary will be filled with communities remembering, recording and retelling some of the millions of stories and events that Australians experienced during World War I. |
| **The ANZAC Spirit**  To cope with the tragic losses our country, the men and women of Australia searched for the positive in the experience. To get through such a horrendous time the soldiers had to develop strong bonds with each other and demonstrate extraordinary courage, endurance and bravery.  So, today, when you hear someone speak about the ANZAC spirit, think of courage, bravery, endurance, mateship, determination and sacrifice. These are the values that were demonstrated so strongly by the soldiers at war and are important in defining Australia as a nation.  **Simpson and his donkey**  One man who exemplified the ANZAC spirit was Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick. Simpson, as he was known, was a stretcher-bearer in the Australian Army Medical Corps. Night or day, he rescued injured men from the battle line at Monash Valley and transported them to safety at ANZAC Cove on the back of his donkey. The donkey had originally been brought to Gallipoli for carrying water but, with Simpson, it found a much greater cause. In only 24 days at Gallipoli, Simpson and his donkey rescued around 300 wounded soldiers | **Honouring the ANZACs**  In 1916, one year after the Gallipoli landing, 25 April was officially declared as ANZAC Day. In the beginning, ANZAC Day honoured the ANZACs. However, after World War II, ANZAC Day came to be about honouring all veterans, servicemen and women, alive or dead. ANZAC Day commemorates everyone who has been involved in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.  Over the years, many ANZAC Day traditions have formed. Since 1927, ANZAC Day has begun with a Dawn Service. Dawn is a symbolic time. The landing at Gallipoli occurred at dawn, and soldiers are customarily woken before dawn and called to ‘stand-to’ (meaning to man their positions).  Dawn Services generally incorporate the following elements: veterans are called to ‘stand-to’, followed by one or two minutes of silence to remember the fallen, then the silence is broken by a single bugle (a brass horn instrument) playing the Last Post. The Last Post was originally played during war to tell soldiers the day was over. When the Last Post is played at memorial services it symbolises that the duty of the dead is over and that they are able to rest in peace. Today, services often include the reading of hymns and poems, a gun salute and Reveille (the bugle call to wake up).  ANZAC Day parades are also held, with ex-servicemen and women marching in uniform. Flowers and wreaths are laid on graves or memorials. A poppy or sprig of rosemary is worn on ANZAC Day. Rosemary is for remembrance and poppies symbolise the bloodshed in war. During World War I, red poppies were the first plants to grow on the devastated French and Belgian battlefields. Soldiers used to say that their red colour came from all the blood spilt on the ground. On ANZAC Day, flags are lowered to half-mast as a sign of honour, respect and mourning. |